

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13021 190835Z

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 W

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O 190806Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC IMMEDIATE 3981

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 13021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP

SUBJECT: YOUR PROPOSED VISIT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

REF: STATE 195296

1. AT AIRPORT AUGUST 19, I ADVISED PRESIDENT MARCOS PER REFTTEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S DESIRE TO MEET WITH HIM IN MANILA IN LATE SEPTEMBER. MARCOS SEEMED PLEASED WITH SUGGESTION AND AFTER SOME THOUGHT NOTED THAT END OF SEPTEMBER WOULD BE GOOD TIMING. I ADDED THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM PROMPTLY CONCERNING PRECISE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATES.

2. WHILE PONDERING TIMING, MARCOS HAD SIDE CONVERSATION WITH FONSEC ROMULO WHICH SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT SOMETHING QUITE DEMANDING OF MARCOS' TIME MIGHT BE IN THE MAKING FOR EARLY OCTOBER. MOREOVER, WHEN ROMULO REFERRED TO EXPECTATION HE (ROMULO) WOULD BE IN NEW YORK FROM LATE SEPTEMBER FOR U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MARCOS POINTEDLY TOLD HIM HE HAD BETTER PLAN TO BE AVAILABLE IN MANILA.

3. WHEN I SEPARATELY AND PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TO ROMULO HOLBROOKE'S PROPOSAL TO VISIT MANILA, ROMULO RESPONDED MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY THAT, "WE LIKE HOLBROOKE. TELL HIM TO COME AHEAD AND TO BRING HIS WIFE; SHE'S A GOOD WATER SKIER."

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4. COMMENT: SEPTEMBER 21 IS THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIAL LAW, AND RUMORS ARE WIDESPREAD THAT MARCOS MAY USE THE OCCASION TO MAKE A DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL/HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE ALSO ARE REPORTS THAT MORE RADICAL OPPOSITION ELEMENTS MAY SEEK TO MOUNT SIGNIFICANT AND POSSIBLY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST

THE REGIME ON THE ANNIVERSARY. ACCORDINGLY, THE LAST  
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER NOW APPEARS TO BE THE MOST PROPITIOUS  
PERIOD FOR HOLBROOKE.

5. BETSY AND I HOPE THAT YOU, AND BLYTHE, WILL PLAN TO  
STAY WITH US.  
STULL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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